

I support media diversity

In re Docket No. 02-277, I'll remind you to consider the commission's goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market. The current ownership rules for the most part serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

Although Mr. Powell like the anti-consumer, right-wing extremist who appointed him apparently puts profits before all other considerations, you are still charged with serving the public interest -- not special interests. Your proposed changes give the antichrist Rupert Murdoch additional ammunition to tabloidize media and eliminate serious journalism.

Does it not disturb you that Disney, Fox and GE affiliates bought into Defense's distortion of the Jessica Lynch affair hook, line and sinker? Did they do anything to expose the endless string of corporate fraud cases before the little guy got hammered? Loosening the rules will give these giants more power to eliminate competition and boost profitability; it certainly won't promote the Fifth Estate's watchdog role when it comes to exposing scandal in Big Business and Big Government.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving the bulk of the media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process. This is especially meaningful at a time when the U.S. should be setting an example of enlightened democracy for countries now under dictatorships and theocracies.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Bradley Paul Berton

